



# Plympton-Wyoming Public School



Principal: Mr. Andy Parnham  
Secretary: Ms. Mary Wood  
Website: <http://plymptonwyoming.lkdsb.net>

**Zone 1**  
**(519) 845-3241 (Phone)**  
**(519) 845-0031 (Fax)**

**Welcome to Fall!**

**Dear Families:**

## **September Start Up**

Thank you to everyone for the smooth start up to our 2019-2020 school year!

## **Character Trait**

The school character trait that we will be focusing on for the month of October at Plympton-Wyoming P.S. is "Respect". Respect means that "we treat ourselves, others, and our world with high regard and dignity."

## **Improving Student Achievement**

As we move into the second month of school, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful support and participation shown by the Plympton-Wyoming Public School community. Signing planners, helping with homework, nightly reading and writing, and/or conversations with your child(ren) about their day at school, all contribute to improving overall student learning. Your continued assistance and support is appreciated by the entire Plympton-Wyoming P.S. staff.

Remember "Education is a partnership between teachers and parents/guardians." "It takes a whole village to raise a child." Parents/guardians frequently ask what they can do to assist their child(ren) and the school in their child(ren)'s education. Parents/guardians can help by:

- Showing an active interest in their child(ren)'s school work and progress
- Communicating regularly with the school and their child(ren)'s teacher(s)
- Helping their child(ren) to be neat, appropriately dressed and prepared for school (e.g., that they have all of the necessary learning materials with them each day for class, study for tests, etc., and have all of the required assignments completed)
- Ensuring that their child(ren) attend school regularly and on time
- Promptly report to the school their child(ren)'s absence(s) or late arrival
- Becoming familiar with the School Code of Conduct and the school rules and expectations for behavior
- Encouraging and assisting their child(ren) in following the rules of behavior
- Assisting and cooperating with school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child(ren)

## **Recount Writing**

During the month of September students had opportunities to practice various styles of writing and free writes while they were establishing a writing community within their classrooms. With the beginning of October, students from Grades 1-8 will now shift their focus to the recount form of writing. A recount retells or recounts events that have already taken place, is written in the past tense, is in sequential order, and uses joining words that are connected to time (e.g., after, then). Students will be focusing on six writing forms throughout the year and will be working on recount writing from the beginning of October until approximately mid-November.

## **2018-2019 EQAO Results**

Students currently in Grades 4 and 7 will be receiving their 2018-2019 EQAO Primary and Junior Assessment Individual Student Report (ISR) results shortly. Parents/guardians should review these results with their child(ren) when they are sent home. Plympton-Wyoming Public School's results are as follows:

The number of students achieving at or above the provincial standard (Level 3) is:

Gr. 3 - Reading = 78%	Writing = 61%	Math = 52%
Gr. 6 - Reading = 58%	Writing = 63%	Math = 17%

EQAO School and Board results are available on the EQAO website at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

Information from the Assessments will be used by school staff for the purposes of improving instructional practices, learning strategies, and assessment and evaluation. The results, along with ongoing classroom assessments provide valid data for subsequent instruction in Reading, Writing, and Math.

## **Student Safety**

To help ensure the safety of everyone, we are asking students to ensure that they carefully check both ways before crossing the street and use the crosswalk, where applicable. As well, students walking should use the sidewalks which are there for their safety. Students riding skateboards, scooters, bicycles, etc. should ensure that they are locked while at school to the bike racks. They should also ensure that they are wearing a helmet, and that they are following proper laws and safety requirements. I have been encouraging students who are not walking, to ride on the side of the road, to respect the laws, and to respect drivers, neighbours, etc.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

**Cross Country** - The Cross Country team have been busy practicing for the upcoming meets. Tuesday, October 8 is the Petrolia Optimist Meet. Wednesday, October 16 is the LKESSA Petrolia Area Meet. Tuesday, October 22 is the District Meet in Blenheim at Deer Run Golf Course. Students who will be participating in these events will get a permission form home for parents/guardians to sign. Students are coached by Mr. Parker, Mrs. Janzen and Mrs. Wilcox. Good luck Wildcats!

Many thanks to our staff for their time and commitment to our extra-curricular activities. Without them our students would not be able to participate.

### Bus Information

Our school is located in **ZONE 1**. We have buses that run through both Zones 1 & 4. Hence, a Zone 4 bus will not operate to our school if Zone 1 is cancelled or if Zone 4 is cancelled.

### Nut Aware School

The health and safety of all of our children at Plympton-Wyoming P.S. is of utmost importance. A number of our students have life threatening allergies to peanuts and nut based products. Please remember to avoid packing snacks and lunches that include peanut butter and other nut based products. **Note: It is a parent/guardian's responsibility to keep the school informed in writing of any special medical concerns/issues that your child(ren) has/have.**

### Soya-Based Peanut Butter Substitutes

Please be advised that we are asking you NOT to send in any soya-based peanut butter substitutes. This is in accordance with the position of the Lambton Kent District School Board. Although the product itself is safe, it mimics another product which is like peanut butter. It is packaged like peanut butter and it is sold on grocery store shelves in the peanut butter aisle. Once it is out of the jar, you cannot tell the real thing from the substitute and that is what makes it so dangerous for students with nut allergies. If the product is sent to school, children will be asked to eat in a location that will ensure that there will be no contact with students who are allergic. In our school community, it is the responsibility of each one of us to safeguard the well-being of all. A danger to even one child is a threat that we must all take seriously. Thank you for making the choice to not send soya-based peanut butter substitutes to school with your child(ren).

### Classroom Treats/Celebration Treats/Etc.

We are kindly asking parents/guardians to NOT send in items for birthday celebrations, etc. as we cannot guarantee that they meet the allergen requirements for those students with life threatening allergies. E.g., Cupcakes for a birthday celebration, homemade baked goods, etc. We would prefer that if parents/guardians elect to send in a celebration item, that the item(s) be a healthy choice (e.g., fruits and/or vegetables) or in a packaged container that clearly indicates that it is nut free on the supplier label. This will help us to keep ALL of our students safe. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in these matters.

### Ticks/Excursions/Field Trips/Outdoor Activities

We are asking parents/guardians to check their child(ren) for ticks and to monitor them for signs of infection after attending any outdoor class excursion/activity due to possible exposure. Note: That "not all ticks carry Lyme disease. The American dog tick, which is the most common tick found in Lambton County, does not carry Lyme disease."

### Hepatitis B, Menactra, and Human Papilloma Virus Immunization Programs

In October, the County of Lambton Health Services Department will be offering voluntary Hepatitis B and voluntary Human Papilloma Virus vaccinations to all of our Grade 7 students. Grade 7 students will also receive a mandatory Menactra meningococcal vaccination. Information packages and consent forms have been sent home with the students in these grades (near the end of the 2018-2019 school year). These vaccinations will only be administered to students who have signed consent forms from their parents/guardians. These vaccinations will be provided free of charge and require multiple doses which will be administered later on in the school year. Should you have any questions regarding any of these vaccinations, please contact the Community Health Services Department at 519-383-8331 Ext. 3589.

### Money Collection and School Cash Online

Remember, you can pay for most events, field trips, etc. occurring at the school by using School Cash Online (see attached for more information). Please note that this is the preferred method of payment. You will require your child(ren)'s Student ID # which can be obtained by calling the school. Thank you.

### World Teachers' Day/Education Workers' Day

The Lambton Kent District School Board will be recognizing World Teachers' Day/Education Workers' Day on Friday, October 4. We are appreciative of all that teachers, education workers and volunteers do each and every day for our students. Thank you.

### Fall Picture Day

Fall Picture Day will take place on Monday, October 28. More information will follow at a later date.

### Ministry of Education Special Education Website

The Ministry of Education's special education component of their website can be found at: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/speced.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/speced.html).

### School Council

Our first School Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Plympton-Wyoming P.S. in the Breakout Room. This year's executive includes:

**Chair:** Afton Helps    **Secretary:** Theresa Siertsema    **Treasurer:** Valerie Riess    **Teacher Rep:** Tressa Brown  
**Parent/Community Reps:** Tammy With, Trina Nolan, Ashley Armstrong, Sarena Potma, Kelly Lucas, Jennifer Richard    **Principal:** Andy Parnham

Elections were not necessary this year. Tentative fundraising goals and fundraisers for this school year are still being determined at this time.

Meetings this year will be held on the following dates: November 5, December 3, February 4, April 7 and May 26. Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Breakout Room (Room 130). All Plympton-Wyoming P.S. parents/guardians are welcome and are encouraged to attend. Meeting agendas and minutes can be found on our school website at <http://plymptonwyoming.lkdsb.net>.

### **Fire Prevention Week**

October 7-13 is Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape." Our local Fire Department will be visiting our school to review fire safety. Our families are encouraged to have a fire safety plan in place for their homes. We are always grateful to our Fire Chief and the volunteer firefighters for their contributions to our students' and community's safety. As well, we would like to thank them for providing their barbeque and for volunteering their time and effort to cook for us at our Meet the Teacher Night. Thank you!

### **School Bus Safety**

As always, students are expected to follow all the rules pertaining to school buses. The students will be receiving their annual training, from Intertrain, on Bus Safety and Evacuation on Thursday, November 14. Parents/guardians and students are reminded that riding the bus is a "Privilege, not a Right". Students receiving Disciplinary reports may have this privilege removed/revoked.

### **Terry Fox Run/Walk**

Thank you to Mrs. Janzen and Mr. Brydges for organizing the Terry Fox Run/Walk. We thank you for all donations for this very worthwhile cause. They are greatly appreciated. Totals are still being tallied.

### **Safe Schools and Ministry of Education's Locked Door Policy**

As part of the Ministry of Education's Safe Schools Policy, please be advised that Plympton-Wyoming P.S.'s entry and exit doors are locked during the school day. Parents/guardians and members of the school community are asked to enter and exit through the main front doors only during the school day. The main doors should also be the only doors parents/guardians are using during pickup and drop off times. Please check in and wait at the office should you need to pick your child(ren) up early. We require all parents/guardians, visitors and guests to the building to sign in in our visitor book located in the office. We appreciate your efforts in trying to help ensure the safety and well-being of all of our school community members. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

### **Open House/Book Fair/Meet the Teacher Night/BBQ**

There were over \$2900.00 in sales at the Book Fair. As a result, each homeroom class received over \$50.00 in books. Thank you to everyone for supporting our school and for attending this event!

### **Parent/Guardian Protocol**

In an attempt to keep all members of our school community safe, to avoid unnecessary congestion and confusion in our hallways, and allow our staff members to properly supervise, parents/guardians are asked to please follow the following pickup and drop off protocol. We are also attempting to maximize the amount of instructional time during the school day for each of our students and avoid unnecessary noise and classroom disruptions.

1. Parents/guardians are to wait outside at arrival and dismissal times at a pre-determined location or in the office area of the school only.
2. Parents/guardians are to enter the building through the main front doors only.
3. Parents/guardians who are in the building will be required to sign in in our visitor book in the office.
4. Parents/guardians are not to use student washrooms.
5. Parents/guardians are to leave late arriving lunches or homework at the office. Students will be notified at the next break or at a convenient time. Please DO NOT go to the classroom directly.

### **Custody Issues**

If you and your spouse/significant other have separated or divorced, please let the office know and provide us with any legal documentation that you have with respect to custody issues, court orders, etc. in order for us to help ensure your child(ren)'s safety and well-being. We realize that these can be delicate situations, but making us aware of them helps to ensure everyone's safety.

### **Reporting Student Absences**

Please call the school if your child(ren) is/are going to be absent from school for any reason. Notes written in your child(ren)'s planners or sent to the classroom teacher(s) do not always get transposed to the attendance, and therefore to the office. As a result, the office staff have to make phone calls home to check on the whereabouts of your child(ren). It is extremely important that parents/guardians call the school each day that your child(ren) will be absent. We have an answering machine that will receive messages 24 hours a day, should you need to leave one at an odd hour of the day. As well, students who change their normal lunchtime arrangements need to have a note from their parents/guardians in order to leave the school.

### **Thanksgiving and a Professional Activity Day**

There will be no school on Monday, October 14 and on Friday, October 25 as these two days are Thanksgiving and a Professional Activity (P.A.) Day. Students will return to school on Tuesday, October 15 and Monday, October 28 respectively.

### **Halloween**

Students from JK- Grade 8 are asked to wear orange and black to school on Thursday, October 31.

### **Plympton-Wyoming P.S.'s Remind App**

Parents/guardians are asked and reminded to please sign up to receive notifications and reminders about general school events, activities, etc. happening at Plympton-Wyoming P.S. If you have a smartphone, get push notifications on your iPhone or Android phone by opening your web browser and going to the following link: [rmd.at/plympton](http://rmd.at/plympton). Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You will be prompted to download the mobile app. If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications by texting the message @plympton to the number (902) 701-9607. Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/plympton](http://rmd.at/plympton) on a computer to sign up for email notifications. Note: Former South Plympton P.S. parents/guardians who previously used Remind will have to sign up again using the information provided above.

### **Share Your Concerns**

The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing the best quality learning opportunities for all students. From time to time there may be a misunderstanding, a lack of communication, or a serious situation that needs to be addressed. Attached to this newsletter are the steps to share your concerns.

### **Stay Safe**

We are asking that parents/guardians reinforce with their child(ren) not to talk to strangers on their way to and from school and/or accept rides from them. Students are also encouraged to walk with a buddy at all times for safety reasons.

Should you have any questions and/or concerns, please call the school.

Sincerely,

Mr. A. Parnham  
Principal